Government of West Bengal. Many of the issues highlighted in the Report of the Committee have also been deliberated in detail during the stakeholders' conference on tea held in New Delhi on 16th and 17th September, 2004. A Tea Advisory Committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan prepared to follow up the recommendations that emerged at the conference.

Price subsidy scheme for small tea growers

2940. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government introduced price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months; and

(b) if so, how many growers benefited from the scheme and how much money was spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 48,600 growers have benefited from the scheme. An amount of Rs.20.86 crores has been disbursed as subsidy as on date.

Invoking Anti-Dumping Clause against Chinese silk

2941. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to invoke the anti-dumping clause against the Chinese silk industry to protect the interests of India's domestic silk industry;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the WTO and also on a bilateral basis with the Chinese Government;

(c) if so, what is the response of the Chinese Government;

(d) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) On the basis of an application filed by the cottage/filature/multiend silk reelers associations

located in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had initiated anti-dumping investigation on 17.7.2002 into the import of mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in or exported from Peoples' Republic of China. Definitive anti-dumping duty was imposed on mulberry raw silk from China PR at the rate of difference between US $ 27.97 per kg and the landed value of import with effect from 2.1.2003 for a period of five years.

The Central Silk Board and other silk manufacturers associations who have approached the DGAD for initiating fresh anti-dumping investigations into the alleged dumping of silk fabric from China PR, were advised to provide full details and justification. All interested parties including the Chinese Government are duly notified if a decision is taken to initiate anti-dumping investigation in this case.

Return of Indian Chillies from European markets

†2942. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are media reports about presence of carcinogenic colour in red chillies exported to Britain and other countries of European Union;

(b) whether it is also a fact that news regarding presence of banned Sudan-I dye in Indian spices and chillies are spreaded in entire Europe;

(c) whether it is also a fact that chillies exported to Britain are being returned;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get those goods tested again in Indian laboratories; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since the material considered to be adulterated is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.